(c) to (f) The assessment of trade performance is done on a regular basis. A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. The Government is also initiating action through several measures to facilitate investment in sectors with strong export potential, encourage diversification of India's export basket, address infrastructure short comings, improve export facilitation measures and the enhance the overall competitiveness of Indian exports. The Government is according high priority to exports and all necessary steps are being taken to put exports on high growth trajectory.

Amendment of exim policy

1270. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to amend the Exim Policy 1997—2002 for introducing a new Exim Policy exclusively for the service sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the new Exim Policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) what additional benefits are proposed to be granted to the service sectors as a result of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) Review of Export and Import Policy is an on going process and amendments are made as and when considered necessary based on the suggestions received from various sectors/ organisations. Revised edition of the Export and Import Policy will be announced shortly.

सस्ते उत्पादों का पाटन (डम्पिंग)

1271. **श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उद्योग जगत ने सरकार का ध्यान सस्ते उत्पादों के पाटन (डम्पिंग) की ओर दिलाया है;

(ख) क्या हमारे उद्योग, इस पाटन (डम्पिंग) के कारण असुरक्षित महसूस कर रहे हैं; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस पाटन (डम्पिंग) के कारण प्रभावित घरेलू उद्योगों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिए क्या उपाय किये हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगडे): (क) से (ग) जी, हां। पाटनरोधी महानिदेशालय को समय-समय पर घरेलू उद्योग से याचिकाएं प्राप्त होती रहती हैं जिनमें पाटन तथा क्षति का आरोप लगाया गया है। विश्व-व्यापार संगठन के करार तथा भारत में सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम के अनुसार पाटनरोधी कार्रवाई की शुरुआत करने में इस बात की आवश्यकता होती है कि पूर्ण रूप से प्रलेखित याचिका पाटनरोधी प्राधिकारियों को प्रस्तुत की जाए जिसमें पाटन, घरेलू उद्योग को होने वाली वास्तविक क्षति और पाटन तथा क्षति के बीच कारणात्मक संबंधों के बारे में साक्ष्य दिए गए हों। पाटनरोधी महानिदेशालय ऐसी याचिका के प्राप्त होने पर नियमों के अनुसार पाटनरोधी कार्रवाई शुरू करता है। कलैंडर वर्ष 1998 और फरवरी, 1999 तक निदेशालय ने 15 मामलों में पाटनरोधी शुल्क लगाने की सिफारिश की है जिनमें भिन्न-भिन्न देशों के मूल के विभिन्न उत्पाद शामिल हैं। निदेशालय ने चार मामलों में अनंतिम शुल्क लगाने की भी सिफारिश की है तथा अन्य पांच मामलों की जांच चल रही है। निदेशालय द्वारा की गई उपर्युक्त कार्रवाई से भारत में वस्तुओं को पाटित करने के विरुद्ध घरेलू उद्योग को सुरक्षा मिलती है।

Brand equity fund

1272. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a 'Brand Equity Fund' to promote Export of Indian products by building their brand image;

(b) if so, the nature of the scheme and the procedure by which the companies

can avail the fund for brand imaging their products abroad; and

(c) whether such 'Brand Equity Fund' will also be made available to Indian entrepreneurs to enhance their brand equity within the country, so that they can develop a muscle to complete in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) managed by a Board of Trustees has been formally launched on 18.2.1999, to project India as a reliable supplier of world class quality goods & services and to make the 'Made in India' label a symbol of quality, reliability and service to the customer. Assistance for brand promotion will be sanctioned in the form of a loan by the Board of Trustees depending upon the merits of each case. IBEF will extend support to particular brands which have achieved world class quality and performance standards and will also support domestic awareness programmes for creation of country wide awareness of the global imperative for quality and high business ethics.

Fixation of floor price for import of steel

1273. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DGFT has fixed the floor price for import of Steel which is higher than the actual international price of Steel; and

(b) what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Government has notified floor prices in respect of certain steel items to restrict their cheap imports into the country. This was necessitated due to the fact that the imports of steel at very low prices from CIS countries and some South East Asian countries in bulk quantities were causing serious threat to the indigenous steel industry by depressing prices to unremunerative levels. The floor prices were fixed on the basis of average Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) prices from sources such as Europe & Japan. The floor prices are subject to revision from time to time based upon the trend of international prices.

Foreign tea being sold as Indian tea

1274. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India produces less than nine million kgs. of tea a year;

(b) whether the world tea market registers 45 million kgs. as "Darjeeling tea";

(c) what steps have been taken to stop inferior foreign tea being palmed off as good Indian tea;

(d) whether import licences have been given for tea against commitments of export;

(e) how far these commitments have been honoured; and

(f) the net loss/gain of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The production of tea in India during 1998 was 870 m. kg including 10.73 m. kg of Darjeeling tea. Nearly 80% of tea produced in Darjeeling plantation districts is exported. Tea is exported mainly in blended form either in bulk or in packets. In this process, origin of tea is lost at the time of blending and hence export of tea by origin of production cannot be ascertained. According to the trade information a sizable quantity of tea not produced in the plantation districts of Darjeeling is sold in the international market as Darjeeling Tea.

(c) Tea Board has introduced a Tea Marketing Symbol as a certification mark for 100% Indian Tea for use on packets/ Tea Bags/Chestls etc. for the purpose of